

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on April 17, 2003 and the Advisory Action mailed on June 30, 2003. Claims 1, 5, 13, 20 and 22 have been amended, and claims 1-24 remain in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

While Applicants respectfully traverse the final rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed on April 17, 2003, and the Examiner's position taken in the Advisory Action mailed on June 30, 2003, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 13, 20 and 22 to more sharply define the present invention over the prior art of record and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In particular, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 13, 20 and 22 to recite that the roller tiers are staggered relative to each other from a rear to a front of the housing. Support for these amendments is provided in the Figures and at Page 8, lines 21-23 of Applicants' disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being introduced by these claim amendments.

While Applicants respectfully submit that Examiner's hypothetical combination of Troiel and Eason is improper as being based on improper hindsight, and further would destroy the intended purpose, structure and function of the rotary range of Troiel, Applicants submit that the combination of elements recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 13, 20 and 22, and claims depending therefrom, is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1-24 are allowable.

Conclusion

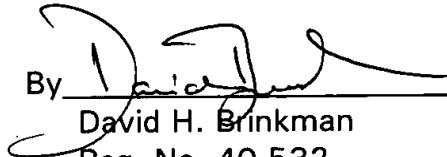
In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Please charge any additional surcharge or filing fee or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By



David H. Brinkman
Reg. No. 40,532

2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-2324 - Voice
(513) 421-7269 - Facsimile